

SUGGESTED REMARKS
Robert E. Wuertz, USAID/P
Face-to-Face Workshops of the Philippine Global
Trade E-Learning Program
Focus on Trade in Services
September 21, 2006
Makati Sports Club (Salcedo Village)

Undersecretary Thomas Aquino, Department of
Trade and Industry,
Assistant Secretary of DTI, Dita Angara-Mathay,
Mr. Gao Pronove of Earth Council Geneva,
Ms. Shefali Sharma,
Mr. Gil delos Reyes,
Ms. Gay Benueza,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning.

On behalf of the U.S. Government, I thank the
organizers of this workshop, the Institute for
Agriculture and Trade Policy and the Earth
Council of Geneva, for bringing us all here
today to finally meet face-to-face. I would also
like to recognize the tireless support of the
Senior Undersecretary of DTI, Tom Aquino, and
personally congratulate him for his leadership
and vision which really got this program up and

running to the point now where more than 400 participants have participated in the E-Learning Program.

And, I would like to recognize the hard work of those 400-plus participants, and welcome those of you who are here today. I am pleased to see before me such a fine group of trade specialists. Representing an impressive, broad cross-section of government, civil society, and academia, you all have important roles to play in the Philippines's discussions on international trade policy. Even more impressive, I am told that this is only the tip of the iceberg - the real strength of the Global Trade E-Learning Program is the E-Learning.

Evidence from a recent World Bank study¹ supports the view that trade openness leads to faster economic growth and significant poverty reduction in developing countries. That makes sense. Any time two economic actors make a deal, whether it is an export or import, it has

¹David Dollar, et. al., 2001.

to be good for both parties - otherwise, they wouldn't trade. This fundamental truth is simple yet powerful because it implies that trade is good, and more trade is better. And regarding trade in services, the U.S. Government firmly believes that the Philippines stands to make tremendous gains in a liberalized international market for services.

We at USAID are pleased to be able to support this trade capacity building initiative. I congratulate each and every one of you in your achievement.

Thank you and good day.